

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge
2591 Whitehall Neck Road
Smyrna, DE 19977
302-653-9345



Calendar of Events – 2016

The Wildlife Drive is open daily from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

The Visitor Center is open during the week from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The Visitor Center is open on weekends from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Saturday, November 5, 2016 9:00 am to 11:00 am Exploring the Bluebird Box Trail The program will cover the plight of the Eastern Bluebird and how conservation activities can benefit the species. The group will walk a 1-1/2 mile section of the refuge, exploring the bluebird nest boxes and the different kinds of wildlife that use them. The program is a hands-on experience for both youth and adults. Bring a bag lunch and picnic at the Visitors Center pavilion after the program.

Friday - Sunday, November 11, 12, & 13, 2016 - ½ hour before Sunrise to ½ hour after Sunset FREE ENTRANCE FEE for Veteran's Weekend. Honoring veterans, the National Wildlife Refuge System is providing free entrance to Bombay Hook National Wildlife and all the refuges throughout the U.S. This is a good time of year to see hawks, eagles, ducks, and geese. Take time out to remember our veterans and to enjoy nature.

Saturday, November 12, 2016 9:30 am to 11:30 am Winter Waterfowl Identification Workshop is a joint program with the Delaware Museum of Natural History (DMNH) and the Delmarva Ornithological Society (DOS). The program will offer participants the opportunity to examine closely, study and discuss the skins of a variety of waterfowl common to Delmarva in the winter. Birds for study will include both the expected and the unusual species. This program will introduce new birders to many commonly seen waterfowl, while offering plumage challenges for our more advanced birders. Dr. Jean Woods, Curator of Birds at the DMNH, will be on hand to guide us through the museum's selected collections.

The workshop is free and will be at the Bombay Hook NWR Visitors' Center. Space is limited and registration is required. (Age 16 and over unless accompanied by a parent) If you're interested in attending the Winter Waterfowl Workshop, **please contact Jean Woods, jwoods@delmnh.org or 302-658-9111 x314.**

Tuesday, November 15, 2016 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Toddlers/preschoolers (1 year old to 5 years old) and their family is free. Bombay Hook will be free for toddlers and their families on the 3rd Tuesday of October. Children from 1 to 5 years old are developing cognitive skills and being in nature can expose them to sights and sounds that might go unnoticed in their everyday setting. Take your child on the wildlife drive, walk a trail, climb up a tower, and look at wildlife exhibits in the visitor center. You are never too young to explore and learn. This is a self-study activity for families. You can come anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.



Saturday, November 19, 2016 9:30 am to 11:30 am Jr. Rangers Learn About The Eastern Wild Turkey New and returning children from 7-11 years old are welcome to attend the Jr. Ranger program. Did you know that a wild turkey can run up to 25 miles per hour? Learn many interesting facts about wild turkeys, their behaviors, and how and where they live in Delaware. **Call or email to register: tina_watson@fws.gov or 302-653-9345.**

Saturday, November 19, 2016 2:00 pm to 4 pm Bike Ride on the Refuge Join Tina Watson for an eight-mile bike ride on the Refuge. The group will make several stops for bird identification and to discuss wildlife management techniques. Bicycle should have hybrid tires. Don't forget your helmet and check the air in your tires! Meet at the Visitor Center. Important- Delaware State law states, "a person under sixteen years of age shall not operate, ride upon, or ride as a passenger any bicycle, unless that person is wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet which meets or exceeds the ANSI Z90.4 bicycle helmet standard."

Sunday, November 20, 2016 9:30 am to 11:00 am Beginning Bird Watching – Duck, Duck, Goose. What are all those ducks and geese around the Refuge? Come and learn how to tell one duck from another at this beginning birders' class. We'll meet at the Visitor Center at 9:30 am for a talk and then practice our identification skills on the wildlife drive.

Friday, November 25, 2016 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm Bird Identification Station Get a close look at the different bird species in the impoundments. Randy Murphy will be set up on the wildlife drive with scopes and binoculars to help you identify waterfowl, passing raptors, and whatever else flies by. Look for the blue ID Station sign along the auto tour route.

Friday, November 25, 2016 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Tour of the Refuge - We will explore the Refuge and learn about the history of the refuge, how we manage for wildlife, and identify the birds along the wildlife drive. Space is limited. **Call or email to register: tina_watson@fws.gov or 302-653-9345.**

Sunday, November 27, 2016 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Tour of the Refuge - Join volunteer, Ray Cullom, for a tour of the Refuge. Find out how the Refuge is managed for wildlife, visit different habitats, and walk a trail. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Sunday, November 27, 2016 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Tour of the Refuge - Join volunteer, Ray Cullom, for a tour of the Refuge. Find out how the Refuge is managed for wildlife, visit different habitats, and walk a trail. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, December 3, 2016 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Sunset Tour of the Refuge The tour will begin early enough to make a couple stops along the way. The group will discuss wildlife management practices, bird watch, and will end with the sunset over Shearneck Pool. Space is limited. **Call or email to register: tina_watson@fws.gov or 302-653-9345.**

Sunday, December 4, 2016 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm Bird Identification Station Get a close look at the different bird species in the impoundments. Randy Murphy will be set up on the wildlife drive with scopes and binoculars to help you identify waterfowl, passing raptors, and whatever else flies by. Look for the blue ID Station sign along the auto tour route.

Sunday, December 18, 2016 Christmas Bird Count – Contact Andy Ednie for details, email: ednieap@verizon.net or 302-792-9591 (VOICE).



Wednesday, December 28, 2016 9:30 am to 11:30 am Jr. Rangers Learn about FOWL PLAY – Swans, ducks and geese...see how they use the Refuge for their wintering grounds! Identify different species and learn about their food sources.

**Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge
Dates Refuge Closed for Hunting
2016 - 2017 Season**

**Back Section of the Refuge Closed
Wildlife Drive closed from north end of Shearness to Finis and Allee House.**

November 11, 12, and 16, 2016 all day for Shotgun

December 12 & 15, 2016 all day for Shotgun

December 17, 2016 until 1:00 pm for the Young Waterfowler's hunt.

January 16, 2016 all day for Wheelin' Sportsmen Waterfowl Hunt

January 20, 2017 all day for Shotgun

**Front Section of the Refuge Closed
Wildlife Drive closed from Visitor Center to Shearness Parking Lot.
Enter the Refuge from Dutch Neck Road on Rt. 9 north.**

November 14 & 18, 2016 all day for Shotgun

December 14, 2016 all day for Shotgun